THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) and (b) State Drugs Controllers who are the licensing authorities for manufacture and sale of drugs have been licensing combination of known drugs, in consultation with their expert bodies. In order to streamline licensing of combinations of drugs, Government have made certain guidelines which would shortly become statutory. This step has been taken to safeguard against licensing of irrational combinations of drugs by the State Drugs Controllers and to ensure that necessary technical data is furnished before registering a combination product.

State Drug Controllers are the licensing authorities for the manufacture and sale of drugs and their formulations. Names of combination of drugs permitted by the Gujarat State Licensing Authority are maintained by them.

(c) to (g) A sub-committee of the Drug Consultative Committee screens existing formulations in the country from the angle of safety, efficacy and rationality and recommends weeding out of irriational combinations of drugs.

Ban on Production and Sale of the Non-iodised Salt

949. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to ban producing and selling of non-iodised salt in the country under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(b) if so, by when, and whether the total need of country salt will adequately be met by installed capacity of iodised salt before the ban is enforced;

(c) whether Government are aware of the prevailing market prices of iodised salt and common salt; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether distribution of iodised salt is also likely to be brought under the purview of Essential Commodities Act and the common man will be able to purchase it at the same rate that he is paying for purchase of non-iodised salt?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Iodisation of salt is the sample and cheapest method for the control of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders. The Government has launched a national programme for control of goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders though iodisation of the entire edible salt in the country in a phased manner by 1992. Consequently, the State/Union Territory Governments were requested to issue necessary notifications banning sale of salt other than iodised salt under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act. So far 11 States and one Union Territory have issued ban notifications.

(b) At present, against and installed capacity for production of iodised salt is 33.00 lakh M.T. The target for complete iodisation of salt in the country will be achieved in the phased manner by 1992.

(c) As per available information, the prevailing market price of iodised salt varies from Rs. 1.20 to Rs. 2.00 per Kg. and of common salt Rs. 0.70 to Rs. 1.15 per Kg.

(d) The iodised salt is proposed to be available through all normal trade channels including Fair Price Shops, Super Bazars, Kendriya Bhandars Cooperatives etc.

In order to check the price of iodised salt, Government is providing 100 per cent subsidy for Potassium Iodate which is the Chemical used for iodisation to the iodised salt manufacturers.